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Regions and States

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- **Superfund.** From December 4-8, OSP's Felicia Barnett, Robert Weber, Steve Dymant and Kira Lynch are attending the [2017 National Association of Remedial Project Managers \(NARPM\) Training Program](#) in Denver, CO. Felicia, Steve and Kira will present in and chair sessions on topics such as PFAS, site evaluation tools and technologies, and contaminants of emerging concern.

- **On December 4,** Chuck Maurice (OSP) and Bruce Duncan (Region 10 RSL) presented at an SHC Health-Eco Integration PACT session on Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS). Chuck and Bruce provided an overview of regional research needs related to EGS and identified topic areas where EGS research could be most impactful for the regions.

- **ORD-Regional-State Collaboration.** On December 6-7, Amy Shields (Region 7 RSL) will meet with EPA Region 7 senior staff and state representatives from IA, MO, KS and NE at the Region 7 Four State Directors Meeting in Lenexa, KS. Amy will give a presentation on recent and ongoing ORD-Regional research projects being implemented in the states. The meeting will also include a discussion about the charter for Region 7's new Regional Science Council.

- **PFAS.** On December 12, ORD will host a teleconference with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), interested states and EPA scientists to share information on PFAS research and related state efforts.

- [EPA Tools and Resources Webinar](#). On December 13, OSP will host a webinar for states, tribes and others highlighting EPA's Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS), an on-line resource that helps scientists find, organize and use information to determine the likely causes of adverse biological effects in aquatic ecosystems.

Regulatory/Program Support

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- [Early Guidance – Oil and Gas New Source Performance Standards \(NSPS\) Reconsideration](#). On December 15, the Administrator will chair an Early Guidance meeting regarding the reconsideration of the Oil and Gas NSPS (standards for methane emissions issued in 2016). ORD will receive materials for this meeting on December 7.

- [Microplastics](#). On December 14, OSP will participate in an internal workshop on microplastics. Discussions will build off of findings from a June 2017 Microplastics Expert Workshop and will focus on program perspectives, potential future research priorities, and opportunities for pilot studies.

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Last Week's Highlights

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- [Regulation of PBTs under TSCA Section 6\(h\)](#). On November 29, Jace Cujé (OSP), Peter Egeghy (NERL), Dan Vallero (NERL) and Caroline Stevens (NERL) provided comments on OPPT's draft Analytic Blueprint for the regulation of five persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) chemical substances. TSCA, as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, requires EPA's proposed regulations to address risks from certain PBT chemicals by June 22, 2019.

- [Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products](#). On November 29, ORD concurred without comment on a final rule that will update several voluntary consensus standards and amend the testing requirements for panel producers and third party certifiers. This rule affects the [2016 Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products final rule](#) issued under Title VI of TSCA.

- [Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention](#). On December 1, Jace Cujé (OSP) provided input on two draft chapters of the Regulatory Impact Analysis for an OLEM action proposing that no additional programmatic requirements are needed to prevent discharges of more than 330 Clean Water Act hazardous substances to waters of the United States.

- [2017 Five-Year Review of the 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria](#). On December 1, Cindy Roberts (OSP) and several scientists from NERL, NRMRL, NHEERL and NCEA provided comments to OW on their draft document summarizing new science that has become available since 2010. Early next year, OW will decide if EPA's 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria need to be updated under the BEACH Act to reflect the latest scientific information.

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Upcoming Presentations

- [On December 11](#), Kacee Deener (OSP) will present on science communication at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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